

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 982  
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Thomas White upon his election as President of the Tennessee Marina Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Thomas White, owner of Fish Springs Marina on Watauga Lake, who was recently elected President of the Tennessee Marina Association (TMA); and

WHEREAS, TMA represents more than 220 marinas and numerous associated organizations, government agencies, individuals, and businesses throughout Tennessee and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White is a 1991 graduate of the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness and a 1999 graduate of Texas A & M University, where he earned a master's degree in Agricultural Economics; and

WHEREAS, as President of TMA, Thomas White will serve as an advocate for the region's waterways, bringing issues impacting lake usage, recreation, and tourism to the attention of the public. "TMA provides a strong voice for the marina industry in promoting a greater public interest in recreational boating," Mr. White said. "We help our membership become more knowledgeable about legal issues, changes in regulations and requirements, marketing, promotion, and communications with state and federal agencies,"; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, TMA's legislative voice was instrumental in lobbying against state taxes which put Tennessee marinas at an unfair level of competition with surrounding states, as

well as persuading the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to study the economic impact of lowering the water levels on TVA reservoirs in the late summer and early fall months; and

WHEREAS, TMA also works with sporting, boating, and tourism organizations, as well as other public, state, and national organizations for the betterment of the recreational boating industry; and

WHEREAS, Thomas White's grandfather opened Fish Springs Marina in 1949, the same day Watauga Lake was opened to the public; Fish Springs Marina is the oldest marina on Watauga Lake, and was run for decades by Mr. White's father before his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Thomas White assumed ownership of the family-run marina in 2000, subsequently investing in improvements to accessibility, safety, and environmental operations; as a result, in 2004 Fish Springs Marina was the first and only facility on Watauga Lake to receive TVA's Clean Marina Designation; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Fish Springs Marina underwent an expansion and now includes a dealership, a full service department, and covered slips; and

WHEREAS, his professional achievements notwithstanding, Thomas White is most grateful for the love and companionship of his wife, Michelle, and their three children, Kate, Rachael, and Andrew; and

WHEREAS, Thomas White epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Thomas White for his dedication to his community and the marina industry in the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Thomas White upon being elected President of Tennessee Marina Association and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

